

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Railway Construction in Northwest China

PLACE
ACQUIREDDATE OF
INFO.

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DATE DISTR. 23 OCT 50

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
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1. A railroad line was completed in late summer 1950 from the USSR-Sinkiang border* to Karghalik (77-26, 37-54). The line extends north into the USSR; the train trip from Karghalik to Moscow has been reduced to six days.
2. More than 200,000 men are working on construction of a railway from Karghalik to Urumchi,** and from Urumchi to Lanchou and thence to Paochi (106-58, 34-16), where it is to connect with the line to the coast.*** Most of the laborers are from the 1 Field Army, under the command of P'ING Te-huai and HO Lung. Both technical supervision and construction materials are being supplied by the USSR. In addition to the troops, military and political prisoners are working on the construction.

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*  Comment. The border crossing point was not stated. From Karghalik the main road leads via Yarkand to Kashgar, from which it divides into several roads reaching the Soviet border. 25X1A

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 Comment.  reported plans to construct railroads linking Sinkiang and the USSR, but not in this area.

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 Comment. Road connections from Karghalik to Urumchi run either north or south of the Taklamakan Desert, making a junction on the northern side at Karashahr (86-34, 42-04) and thence going via Toksun (88-38, 42-47) and Tafanch'eng (88-17, 43-21) to Urumchi. Which route was being followed was not indicated.

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
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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Approved For Release

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 No Change in Class. ☐
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